

1963

Sanitized - Approved For Release: CIA-RDP75-00149R000200670015-4

70015-4

Mr. LLOYD. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a bill to confirm in the State of Utah title to all lands lying below the high water line of Great Salt Lake as of the effective date of the admission of that State into the Union. The lake is deemed navigable and confirmation of title to the lake bed in Utah is therefore legally proper and traditional. Relictions and accretions since the date of statehood have raised questions as to present title to surrounding and neighboring lands, which this legislation is designed to clarify and settle.

Care has been taken to draft this proposed legislation in a manner which will avoid altering any claim, right or interest presently existing in, or to, the lands concerned, and a special exclusionary clause has been added which will protect the Bear River Bird Refuge, which borders on part of the lake.

An identical bill to this is being introduced into the Senate, jointly sponsored by both Senators from Utah, one from each political party, indicating the non-partisan aspect of the legislation.

#### STATEHOOD ENABLING ACT

(Mr. BURTON asked and was given permission to extend his remarks at this point.)

Mr. BURTON. Mr. Speaker, for some time, there has been controversy over the ownership of the shoreline lands of the Great Salt Lake located in the State of Utah. The law relating to the ownership is not as confusing as some of the agencies and individuals are trying to make it appear.

Vital interests of the State of Utah are concerned and procrastination in making these lands available to the State is working great hardship on us and the development of some exceptional scenic attractions.

I am happy to join with my colleague from Utah in sponsoring legislation which will give the State of Utah part of its birthright, granted in the statehood enabling act.

#### CORRECTION OF RECORD

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to correct two minor printer's errors which appeared in the tabular material which I inserted in the Appendix of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of February 5, 1963, at pages A525-A529.

The title of Table 3—Appropriations and REA and FHA loan authorizations should be corrected to read "fiscal years 1933 through 1964," instead of "fiscal years 1933 through 1954" as incorrectly printed on pages A526, A527, and A528.

The source at the end of table 3 should be indicated as:

Source: Office of Budget and Finance, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

I ask unanimous consent that the permanent Record be corrected accordingly.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There was no objection.

#### THE CUBAN SITUATION

(Mr. FASCELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous matter.)

Mr. FASCELL. Mr. Speaker, as we say down South, I believe the time has come for some administration critics to fish or cut bait. A new game is being played by critics of the administration who allege they possess superior information on the Cuban situation.

For its part the administration has put its facts and its intelligence sources on the line for the American people to evaluate and exercise their own judgment, to make their own courageous and intelligent decisions thereupon.

Some criticism has been directed by self-styled oracles of the unsuccessful Bay of Pigs invasion. They have clamored and demanded a determination of the question of U.S. air cover on that occasion. Based on sources, some named but mostly unidentified, these critics have sought to charge the failure of that invasion upon the withdrawal of promised U.S. air cover.

Yet the RECORD should be made clear that this determination has been made and the question answered on the RECORD.

On January 21, 1963, David Kraslow, Washington correspondent of the Knight Newspapers, published an exclusive interview with the Attorney General of the United States, Robert F. Kennedy. He was the man empowered by the President of the United States to conduct the original investigation of the entire Bay of Pigs matter. In that interview the Attorney General stated clearly and unequivocally:

There never was any plan to have U.S. air cover. There never was any promise.

Since this interview is the first time that this administration has publicly discussed this matter and since the entire interview is important in an evaluation of all facts upon which judgment must be made, I wish to read this historical document to my colleagues:

PIGS BAY STORY ERRS, ROBERT KENNEDY SAYS  
(By David Kraslow)

No U.S. air cover was ever planned or promised for the Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in April 1961, Robert Kennedy says.

Nor was the inability to control the skies the only thing that doomed the U.S.-backed Cuban refugee brigade.

There were several major mistakes. Perhaps 10 times as many men were required for a successful operation.

Kennedy insisted repeatedly that responsibility for the failure rests with the President. But it seems clear that the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency, both of whom approved the invasion plan, virtually ignored what proved to be a crucial element in Premier Fidel Castro's arsenal.

These and other disclosures by the Attorney General made in an interview requested by the Knight newspapers, broke the Kennedy administration's long silence on one of the most embarrassing episodes in American history.

It must be presumed that Robert Kennedy had the approval of the President to speak

for the record, to acknowledge officially this Government's role in the attempt to liberate Cuba, and to explain finally what went wrong.

For some 20 months, while the Cuban refugees who were crushed at the Bay of Pigs languished in Castro's prisons, the President chose restraint rather than retort.

Now, largely because the ransomed prisoners are free in the United States, the Kennedy administration feels it can reply to what it regards as grossly inaccurate accounts—published and spoken—of the Bay of Pigs disaster.

#### AUTOPSY PERFORMED

Few people can match Robert Kennedy's knowledge of the affair. At the direction of the President, he and three others performed the autopsy. The report of their investigation led to shakeups in the CIA and the Pentagon.

During the interview, Kennedy referred critically to several national magazine articles that purported to tell the inside story.

One widely held belief is that the President reneged at the last moment on promised U.S. air cover for the invaders and that this guaranteed failure.

"There never was any plan to have U.S. air cover," Kennedy said. "There never was any promise. Not even under Mr. Eisenhower was American air cover in the picture."

#### BEGUN UNDER IKE

(The recruitment and training of Cuban refugees for an invasion of their homeland was begun in the Eisenhower administration. A force was already in being when President Kennedy took office in January, 1961.)

"From the beginning the President said no American forces would take part in the operation. It was made absolutely clear that under no condition, under no condition whatsoever, would Americans be used in the invasion.

"And it simply cannot be said that the invasion failed because of any single factor. There were several major mistakes. It was just a bad plan. Victory was never close.

"A great deal more manpower and material was needed. Pepe San Roman (Jose A. Perez San Roman, the brigade commander who visited the Attorney General in Washington recently) says they might have succeeded if they had 15,000 men instead of 1,500.

"And all 1,500 fought bravely," Kennedy emphasized. "The investigation showed that they all fought with such determination and courage that this is how I became so committed to freeing them. These were not mercenaries. These are brave volunteers with a mission to free their country."

#### ROLE OF TRAINERS

The bitterly ironic, and vital role played by three or four T-33 jet trainers at the Bay of Pigs relates to one of the major errors in the American plan.

Ironical because these were American planes given to former Cuban dictator Fulgenio Batista and inherited by Castro when the Batista regime collapsed.

Vital because the T-33's easily mastered the only air cover which Kennedy said had been planned for the invaders—antiquated World War II B-36 bombers piloted by refugees.

The T-33 is a training device. But armed with rockets it proved to be a highly effective instrument of war at the Bay of Pigs.

"We underestimated what a T-33 carrying rockets could do," Kennedy said. "It wasn't given sufficient thought. They caused us a great deal of trouble."

#### PRESENT IN VICINITY

One possible explanation for the apparent misconception on the question of U.S. air cover has to do with the presence of Ameri-